

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 547

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ray Cutcher on being named 2015 Ranger of the Year by the Tennessee Park Rangers Association.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those dedicated state park professionals who improve the physical, mental, and emotional health of Tennesseans by engaging them with the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, one such worthy person is Ray Cutcher, who was recently named 2015 Ranger of the Year by the Tennessee Park Rangers Association for his work as park manager of Cummins Falls State Park; and

WHEREAS, 2015 was the most challenging year yet for Cummins Falls State Park in its three-year existence, but Mr. Cutcher maintained a positive attitude in the face of adversity, and as was noted in his nomination, he "worked from May 8th until after Labor Day without a day off to ensure that the public was safe ..."; "he sacrificed time with his family and friends because of his overwhelming sense of duty to the park he loves and the public he is sworn to protect"; and

WHEREAS, described as "a good friend, a great leader, and an inspiration to all that know him," Mr. Cutcher began his illustrious career with Tennessee State Parks at Meeman Shelby Forest State Park and earned a full-time position there in the spring of 1976; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1978, he started work as a park ranger at Meeman Shelby and served with distinction in that position until transferring to Fall Creek Falls State Park in 1984 on April Fool's Day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cutcher served eighteen productive years at Fall Creek Falls, before he was selected to be part of establishing Cummins Falls, a new state park, on February 17, 2012; he was officially promoted to park manager in February 2014; and

WHEREAS, while working at Fall Creek Falls, Ray Cutcher gained expertise in rock climbing and high-angle rescue and practiced both skills often; and

WHEREAS, he has been involved in over 600 rescues and search incidents, but finds even more rewarding his roles in introducing over 2,000 people to rock climbing and helping thousands more enrich their lives through positive interactions with the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cutcher has served with acumen and alacrity as a Tennessee park ranger for thirty-eight years, and on June 1, 2016, he will celebrate his fortieth anniversary with Tennessee State Parks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cutcher modestly attributes his success to his fellow park rangers and staff, but we understand that he is a devoted professional of rare ability and commitment and richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Ray Cutcher on being named 2015 Ranger of the Year by the Tennessee Park Rangers Association, commend his eminent forty-year career with Tennessee State Parks, and wish all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.